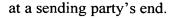


- 1. An electronic message comprising:
 - a sound file; and,
 - a predetermined identifier indicating an aspect of said sound file.
- 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a sender's voice.
- 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a computer simulated voice.
- 4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a computer simulated voice and at least one word in a sender's voice.
- 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the predetermined identifier is a specific file name associated with said sound file.
- 6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the predetermined identifier is an information tag.
- 7. The method of Claim 6 wherein the information tag is embedded in the e-mail header.
- 8. A method for sending an e-mail comprising: attaching a sound file to an e-mail; and, utilizing a predetermined identifier indicating an aspect of said sound file into said e-mail.
- 9. The method of Claim 8 wherein said attaching is performed by a computer at a sending party's end.
- 10. The method of Claim 8 wherein said attaching is automatic.
- 11. The method of Claim 8 wherein said attaching is performed by an adjunct to a computer



- 12. The method of Claim 8 wherein said attaching is performed by an e-mail server.
- 13. The method of Claim 8 wherein said attaching is performed by a recipient computer.
- 14. The method of Claim 8 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a sender's voice.
- 15. The method of Claim 14 wherein said sound file further contains at least one word in a computer simulated voice.
- 16. The method of Claim 8 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a computer simulated voice.
- 17. The method of Claim 8 wherein the predetermined identifier is an information tag.
- 18. The method of Claim 17 wherein the information tag is embedded in the e-mail header.
- 19. The method of Claim 18 wherein the information tag is embedded by a sender computer.
- 20. The method of Claim 18 wherein the information tag is embedded by an adjunct to a computer at a sending party's end.
- 21. The method of Claim 18 wherein the information tag is embedded by an e-mail server.
- 22. The method of Claim 18 wherein the information tag is embedded by a recipient computer.
- 23. The method of Claim 18 where said attaching is selectively performed by a sending party.
- 24. A method for announcing electronic messages comprising:

 receiving an electronic message with an attached sound file;

 noting the presence of a predetermined identifier indicating an aspect of said sound file;

 and,

- playing the attached sound file.
- 25. The method of Claim 24 further comprising receiving at least one more electronic message with an attached sound file and playing said at least one more sound file.
- 26. The method of Claim 24 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a sender's voice.
- 27. The method of Claim 24 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a computer simulated voice.
- 28. The method of Claim 24 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a computer simulated voice and at least one word in a sender's voice.
- 29. The method of Claim 24 wherein noting the presence of a predetermined identifier includes noting the presence of an information tag.
- 30. The method of Claim 29 wherein the information tag regarding the sound file is embedded in the e-mail header.
- 31. The method of Claim 30 wherein the information tag is embedded by a sender computer.
- 32. The method of Claim 30 wherein the information tag is embedded by an adjunct to a computer at a sending party's end.
- 33. The method of Claim 30 wherein the information tag is embedded by an e-mail server.
- 34. The method of Claim 30 wherein the information tag is embedded by a recipient computer.
- 35. The method of Claim 24 where said playing is selective.
- 36. The method of Claim 24 where said playing is performed at a recipient computer.
- 37. The method of Claim 24 where said playing is performed at a recipient customer premise

equipment.

- 38. The method of Claim 24 where said playing is performed at a recipient voice mail.
- 39. The method of Claim 24 further comprising converting the content of the electronic message to a voice message.
- 40. The method of Claim 39 where said converting is performed at an e-mail server.
- 41. The method of Claim 39 where said converting is performed at a recipient computer.
- 42. The method of Claim 39 where said converting is performed at an adjunct to a computer at the receiving party's end.
- 43. The method of Claim 39 where said converting is performed at a voice messaging system.
- 44. The method of Claim 39 wherein said converting is performed using a sound file as a voice sample.
- 45. The method of Claim 39 further comprising transferring said voice message to a voice-mail box.

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